



MARVEL
COMICS

THE BEGINNING of the END...

CALIBUR

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COMICS
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ALAN DAVIS / MARK CHERRY (ART BY NEAL ADAMS)

30TH
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1962 - 1992



THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN

THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE TELEPORTING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS, THEY HAVE BANNED TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS...

EXCALIBUR!

LET THERE BE DARK

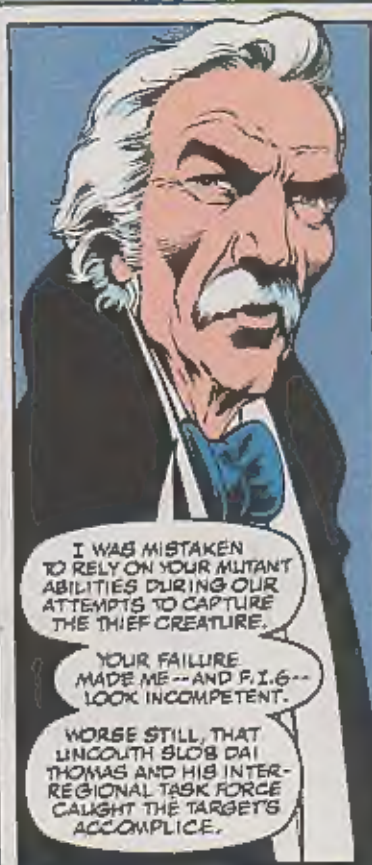
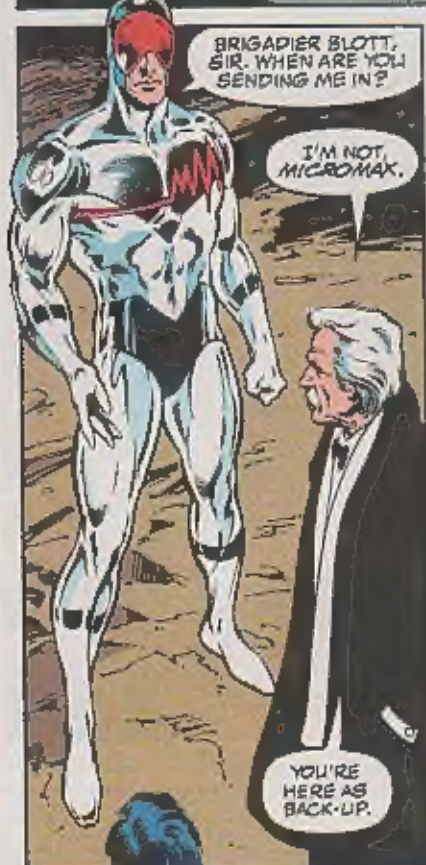
THE F.I.E. MEDIATORS ARE A SQUAD OF MILITARY EXPERTS DRAWN FROM THE ELITE OF BRITAIN'S ARMED FORCES.

WITH CLINICAL EFFICIENCY, THEY REGARD THESE DERELICT WAREHOUSES IN LONDON'S DOCKLAND AS A SET OF TACTICAL PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THEIR LATEST ASSIGNMENT...

...TO LOCATE AND APPREHEND A "TARGET"--OF UNKNOWN PARAHUMAN ABILITIES--AND DELIVER HIM TO THEIR LEADER...



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"...MY MEDIATORS WILL
GET THE JOB DONE."



NEGATIVE ON
HEAT TRACE.

ZERO ON
ACOUSTICS.

LOOKS
LIKE A BODY
AT TWO
O'CLOCK.



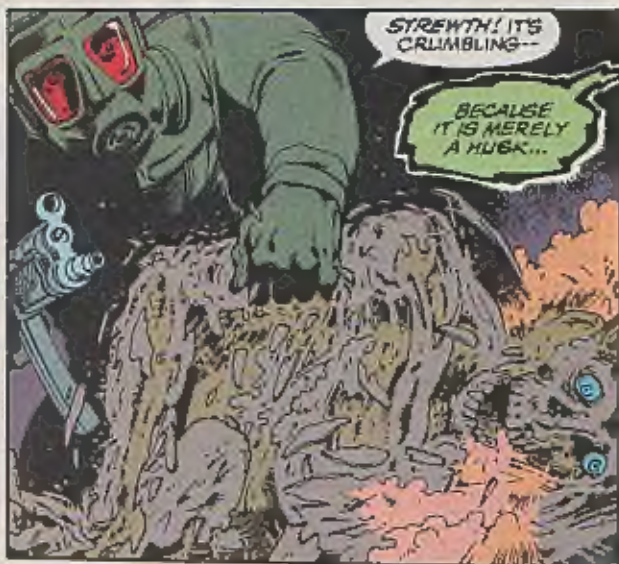
WE'VE GOT YOU
COVERED, ANDY,
TAKE A LOOK.

LOOKS OLD,
WITHERED--
DEFINITELY
DECEASED.



STRENGTH! IT'S
CRUMBLING--

BECAUSE
IT IS MERELY
A HUSB...



...I
DRAINED
ITS LIFE
FORCE...
...AS
I WILL
YOURS.



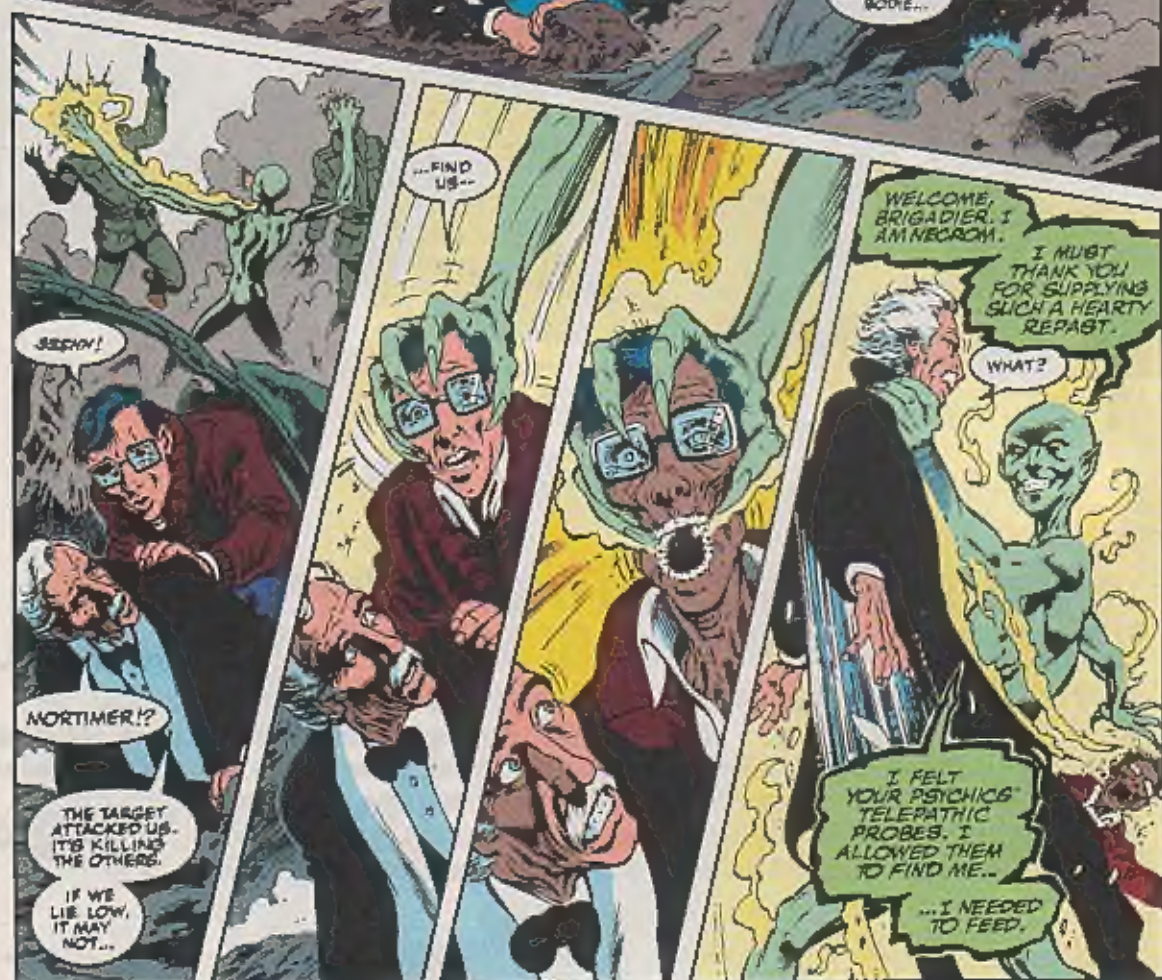
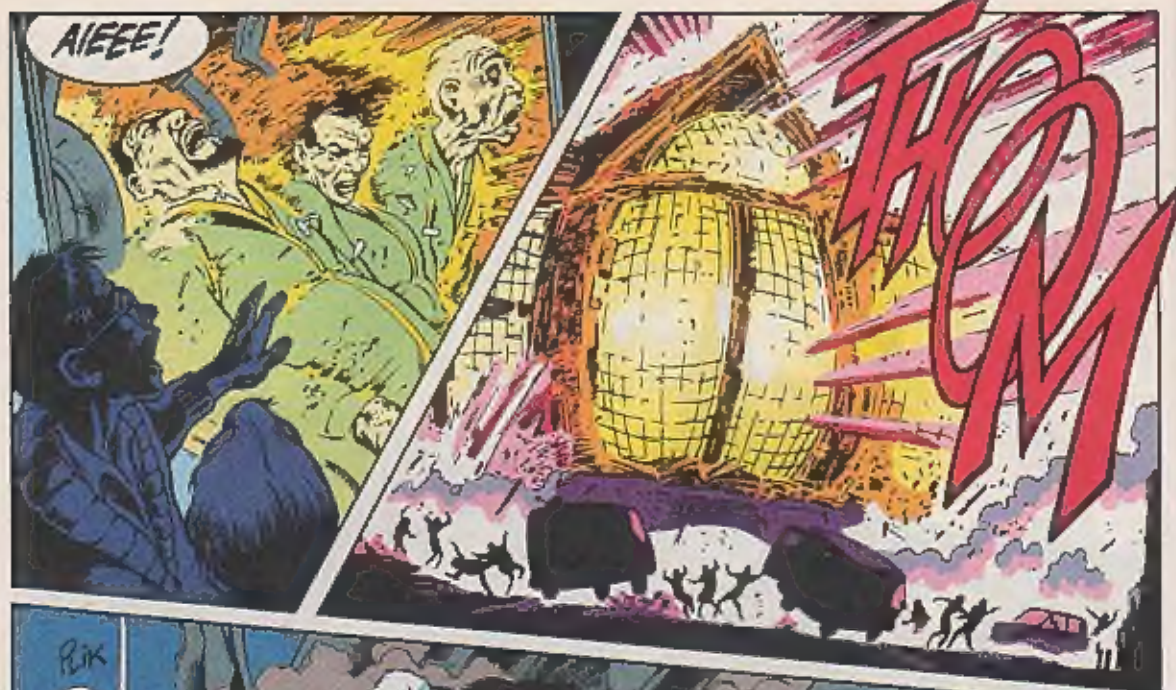
...7TH DAN KARATE
BLACK BELT, MAS-
TER AT ARMS, SIX
YEARS IN THE
MARINES, FOUR
IN THE S.I.A.S....

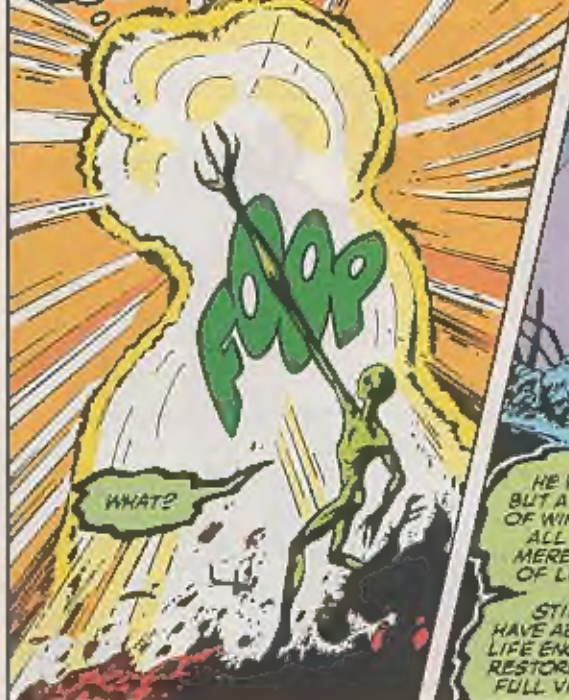
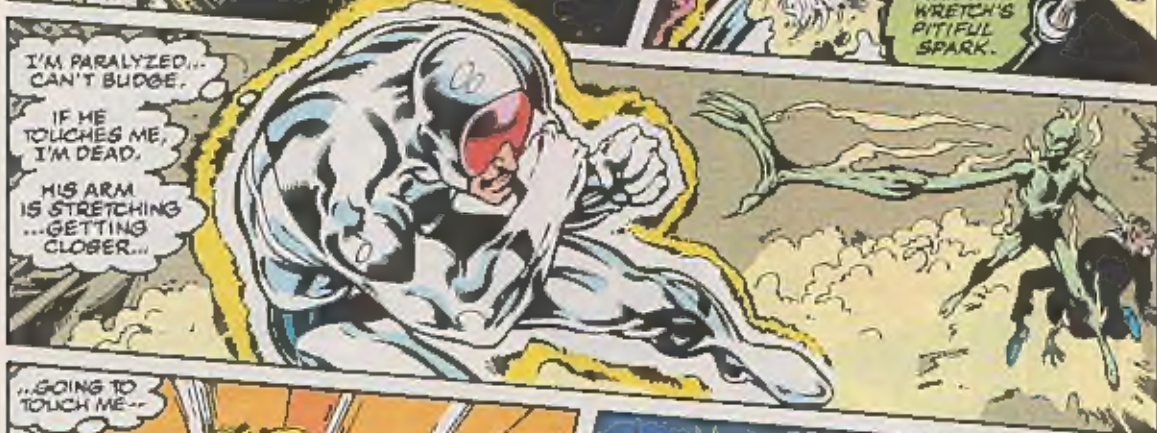


...BUT HE IS STILL MERELY
A MAN, SUDDENLY PAINFULLY
AWARE OF HIS OWN
MORTALITY.









MEANWHILE--APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY MILES NORTHWEST OF LONDON--AT THE EXCALIBUR LIGHTHOUSE...

NECROM IS COMING...

EASY, RACHEL.

HE SLAUGHTERED THE WHOLE F.I.G. UNIT-- I SAW IT IN MY MIND, KURT...

...HE WANTED ME TO SEE.

THE BLOOD OF HIS VICTIMS IS ON YOUR HANDS. YOU COULD HAVE STOPPED NECROM FROM JOINING WITH THE POWER OF THE ANTI-PHOENIX.

HEY! YOU'VE NO RIGHT TO SAY THAT--

--ALL YOU'VE DONE SO FAR IS GET RESCUED BY US.

PLEASE, THIS IS GETTING US NOWHERE.

I WAS PREPARED TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH-- I ALONE POSSESS THE KNOWLEDGE TO DEFEAT THE ANTI-PHOENIX.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU SPEAK OF, BOY. NECROM BARELY ESCAPED MY SWORDS WHEN LAST WE FOUGHT.

AND KURT DEFEATED HIS SLAVE CREATURE.

THAT IS ALL IRRELEVANT NOW.

I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT'S IRRELEVANT, YOU LITTLE--

KATHERINE!

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO FIGHT AMONGST OURSELVES WHEN WE COULD BE...

...ATTACKED AT ANY MOMENT.

LOOKOUT!

THUD



WEIRD ONE? LEAST EXPECTED? HOW CAN YOU BE SO CASUAL ABOUT A GIANT TRYING TO STOMP ON US?

THIS SORT OF THING HAPPENS ALL THE TIME, KYLLIN--THOUGH IT'S NOT USUALLY SO DRAMATIC--

--IT'S JUST A TEMPORARY BLURRING OF THE INTERFACE BETWEEN REALITIES. A GLIMPSE OF WORLDS BEYOND.

THE FOURTH-DIMENSIONAL PULSE I DETECTED EARLIER IS INCREASING.

A 4D PULSE-- THAT'S TIME DISTORTION. I WONDER IF IT IS ANYTHING TO DO WITH WIDGET?

IF INDEED THIS IS WIDGET, ALISTAIRE.

WHATEVER IT IS APPEARS TO BE BENIGN.

NECROM, ON THE OTHER HAND, PRESENTS AN IMMEDIATE THREAT-- I PROPOSE WE DIVIDE OUR NUMBER AND PREPARE OUR STRATEGY.

I'D LIKE TO STAY DOWN HERE. ALL THESE ROBOT BODIES WIDGET MANUFACTURED ARE FASCINATING.

I TOO WILL REMAIN WITH WIDGET.

I OWE HIM MY LIFE.

VERY WELL. MEGGAN, PLEASE TAKE CERISE AND FERON TO THE KITCHEN AND PREPARE A SNACK.

I WILL NOT--

SHUT UP, FERON! BRIAN, KITTY, RACHEL AND I WILL PREPARE A TACTIC FOR WHAT MAY BE THE BATTLE EXCALIBUR WAS FORMED TO FIGHT.

HE WAS MY COMPANION WHEN I WAS ALONE--SO NOW, I WILL GIVE HIM WHAT LITTLE TIME IS LEFT BEFORE NECROM STRIKES.

LONDON

WE'VE RECOVERED NINETEEN
BODIES SO FAR BUT ALL SURVIVED
DRIED OUT... THE FORENSICS BOYS
ARE BAFLED.

YOU ALERTED US TO THE SITUATION
HERE A GOOD FIFTEEN MINUTES
BEFORE THAT EXPLOSION SHATTERED
EVERY WINDOW IN A
QUARTER MILE RADIUS

WHAT'S THE
STORY DAD?

MYSELF & CREW
GOT THEMSE LIVES AND
SOMETHING BUT
PETER I DON'T KNOW
ANY SPECIFICS

MISS WITHERSPOON
JUST PICKED UP ON
THE PSYCHIC RUMORS
SHE'S CLARIVYANT

MISS
WITHERSPOON
HAD FOUND
SOMETHING?

I CANNOT BE
CERTAIN COMMANDER
THOMAS

I SENSE A
PRESENCE VERY FAR
TINY SEVERAL CONSCIOUS
STRUGGLING TO AWAKEN

EEEEERGH!

BY THE
WORD
HARRY

YOU'RE
MISHEARING
RIGHT?

ONLY JUST
NEARLY HAD ME
TRAPPED READY
TO KILL ME
SHRANK TO
ESCAPE

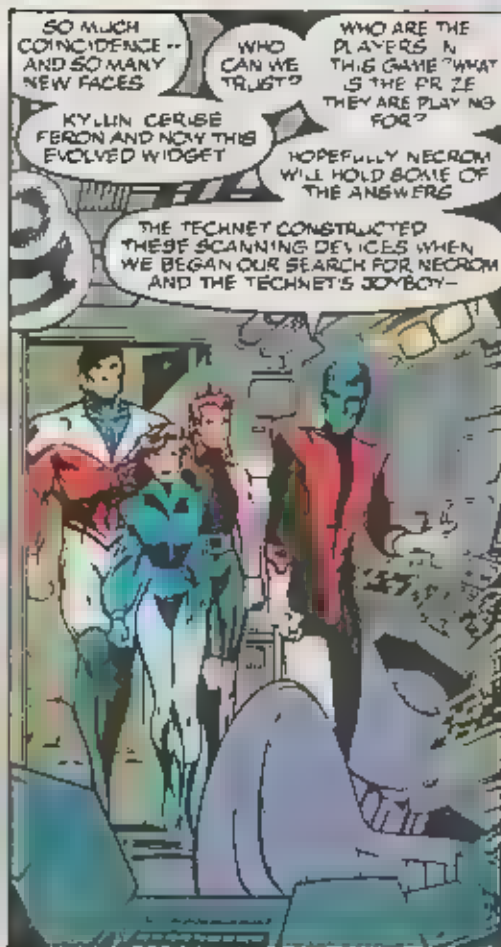
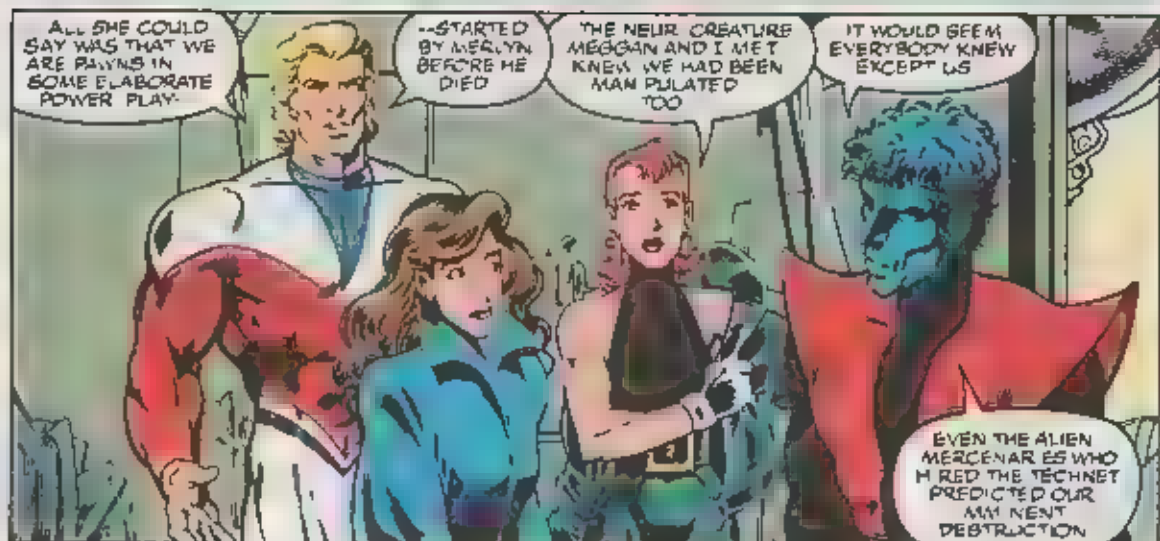
STILL LEARNING
TO BE MY POWER
TO CONTROL MYSELF
AND WAS SHRUNK
TOO FAST PASSED
OUT

WHERE'S
NEEDING?
DID YOU
GET HIM?

WE'RE TRYING TO WARN
THEM... NECRONICAN
SUCK THE LIFE OUT OF
A PERSON WITH ONE
TOUCH

THE
ENCA... BUT
I DON'T KNOW
I SEE NOW
HE WENT
THERE

WE CAN'T LAD
I TRIED TO CALL
ENCA... BUT I CAN'T
BUT THE RADIO
PHONE WAS DEAD

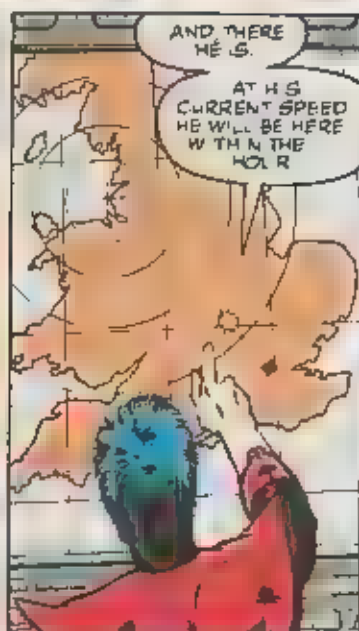




OUR SEARCH WAS UNSUCCESSFUL BECAUSE WE DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT NECROM.

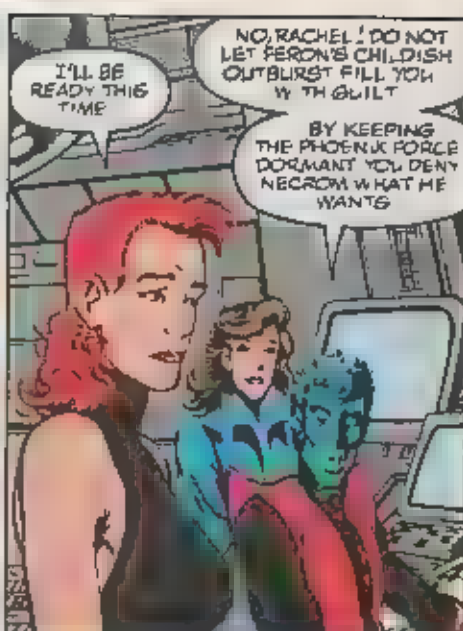
BUT IF HE NOW POSSESSES A QUANTITY OF PHOENIX FORCE

IT WILL BE A SIMPLE MATTER OF ATTUNING THE DETECTORS TO THE ENERGY SIGNATURE OF PHOENIX.



AND THERE HE IS.

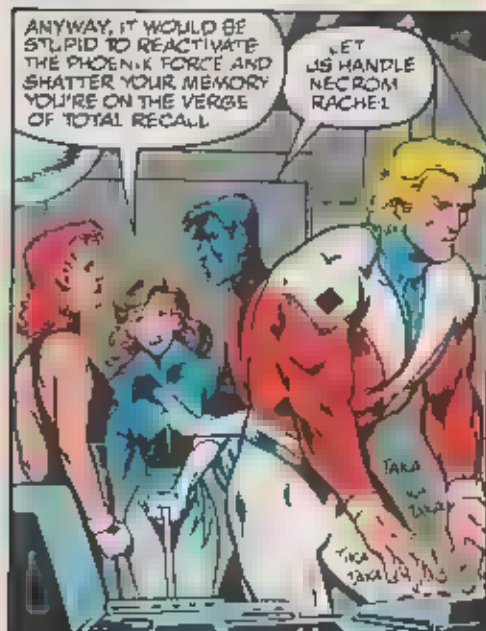
AT HIS CURRENT SPEED HE WILL BE HERE WITHIN THE HOUR.



I'LL BE READY THIS TIME.

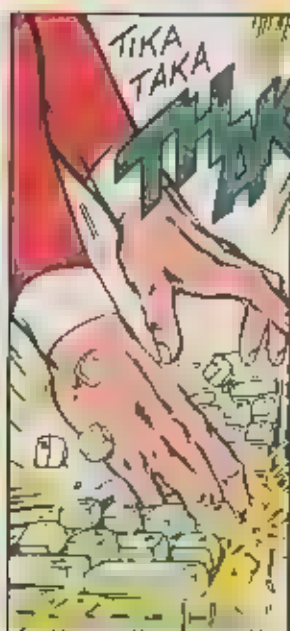
NO, RACHEL! DO NOT LET FERON'S CHILDISH OUTBURST FILL YOU WITH GUILT.

BY KEEPING THE PHOENIX FORCE DORMANT YOU DENY NECROM WHAT HE WANTS.



ANYWAY, IT WOULD BE STUPID TO REACTIVATE THE PHOENIX FORCE AND SHATTER YOUR MEMORY. YOU'RE ON THE VERGE OF TOTAL RECALL.

LET US HANDLE NECROM, RACHEL.



TAKA TAKA TAKA



I WAS TRYING TO FOCUS THE EXTERNAL CAMERAS TO INTERCEPT NECROM'S FLIGHT PATH.

BUT THIS KEYBOARD, IT'S JUNK.

NO, IT WAS STATE OF THE ART. HEAVY DUTY, BUILT TO LAST.



BUT I'M NOT THAT CLUMSY... I MEAN, I CONTROL MY SUPER-STRENGTH.

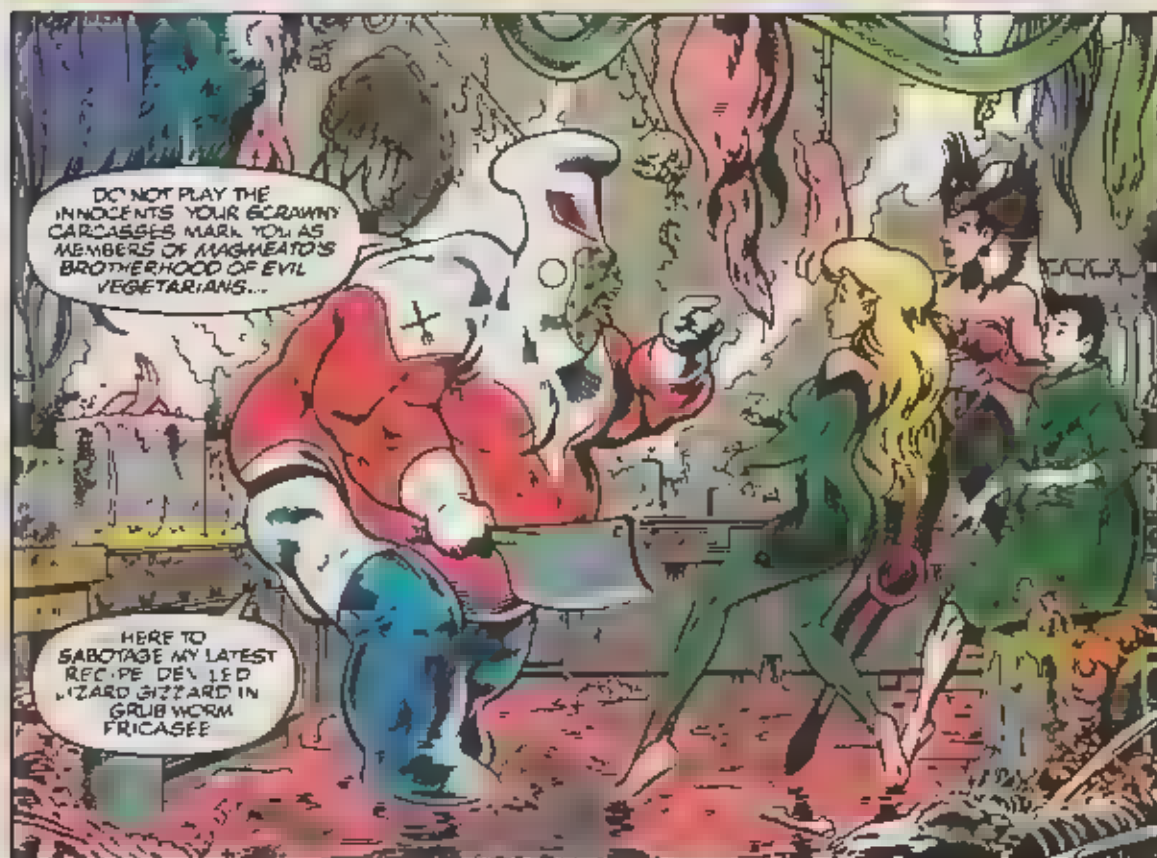
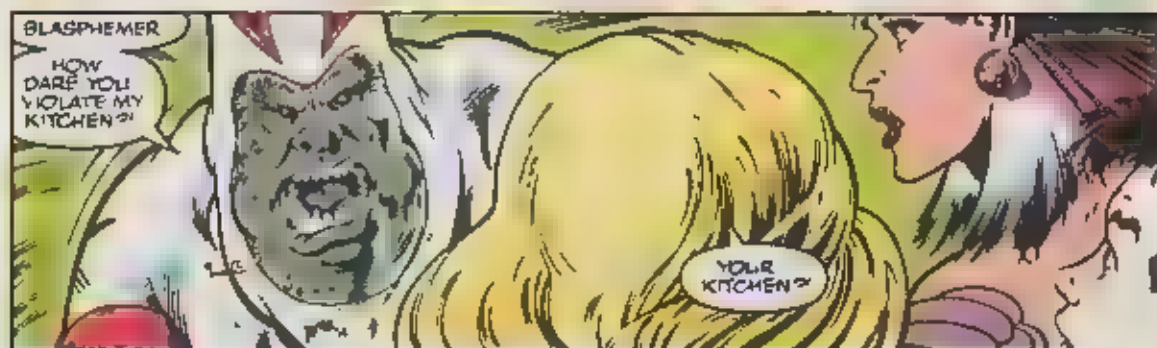
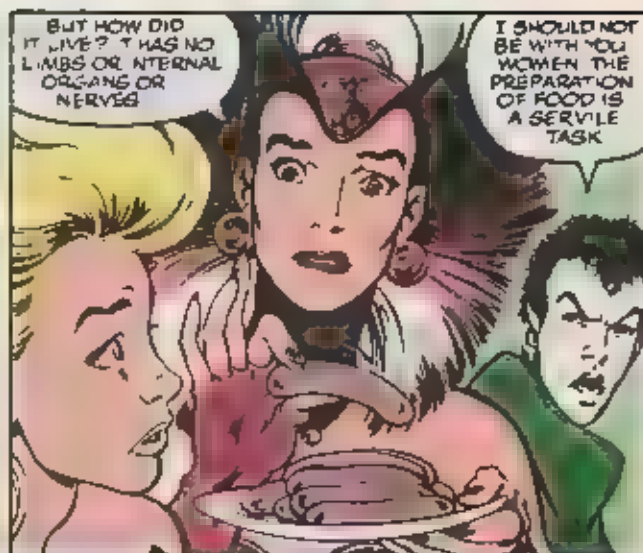
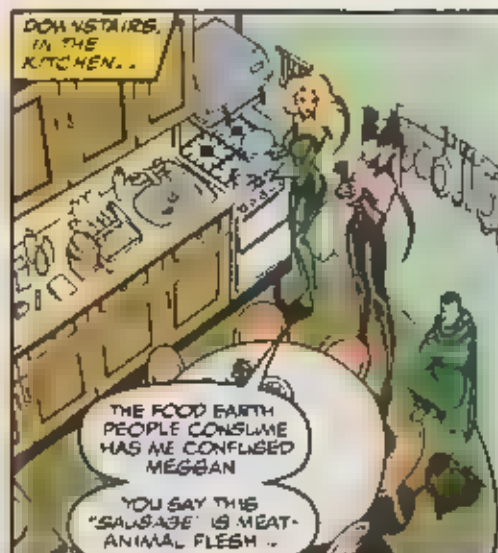
MAYBE ROMA DIDN'T REMOVE THE JINX SHE HAD PUT ON YOU.

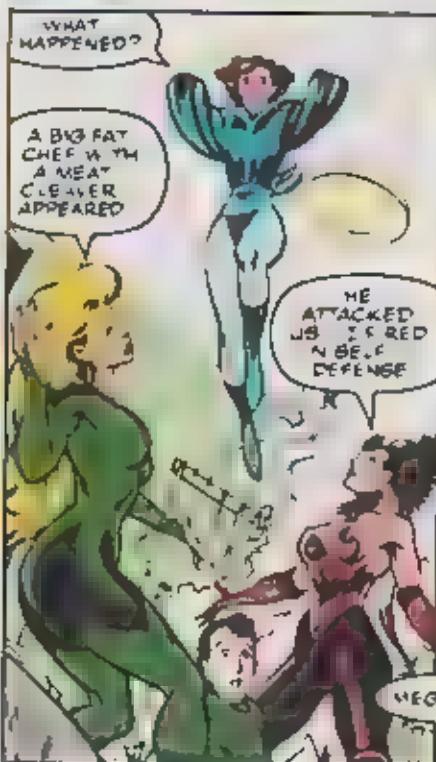
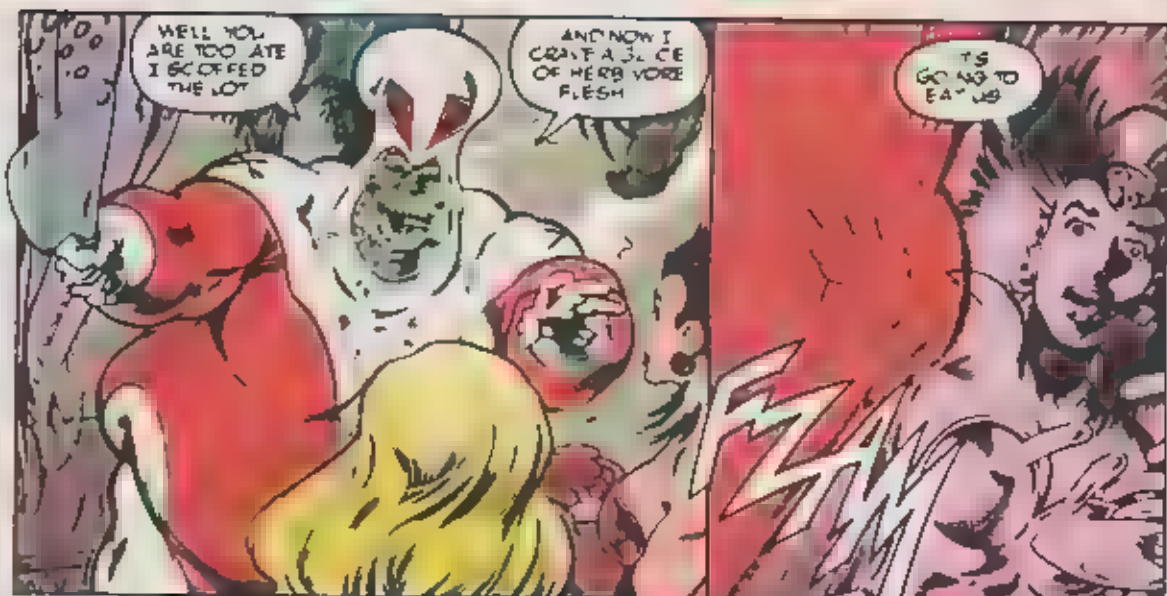
NO, I TRUST ROMA. I'M SURE SHE KEPT HER PROMISE.

BRIAN FEARS KITTY'S RIGHT - RACHEL'S TORN, CONFUSED.

THEIR CONFIDENCE IS BEING ERODED BY SELF DOUBT.

IS THIS MORE MANIPULATION BY OUR MYSTERIOUS ADVERSARIES?

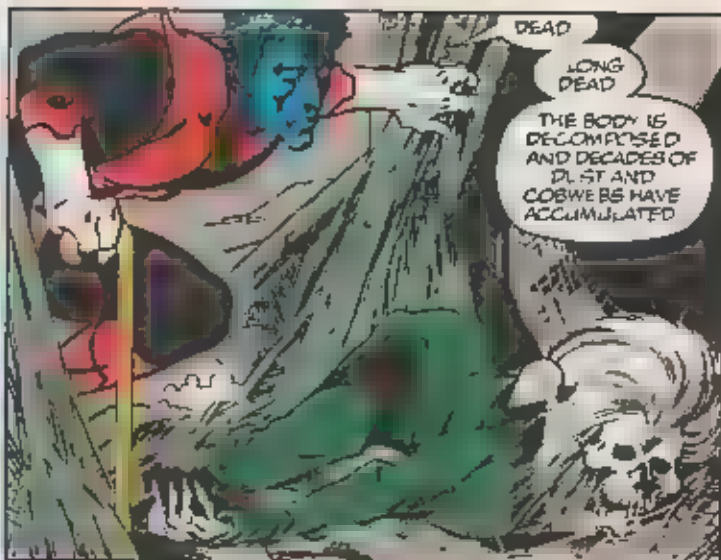






MEIN GOTT!
THE KITCHEN IS
DEVASTATED
AND--

MEERGAN



DEAD

LONG
DEAD

THE BODY IS
DECOMPOSED
AND DECADES OF
DUST AND
COBWEBS HAVE
ACCUMULATED

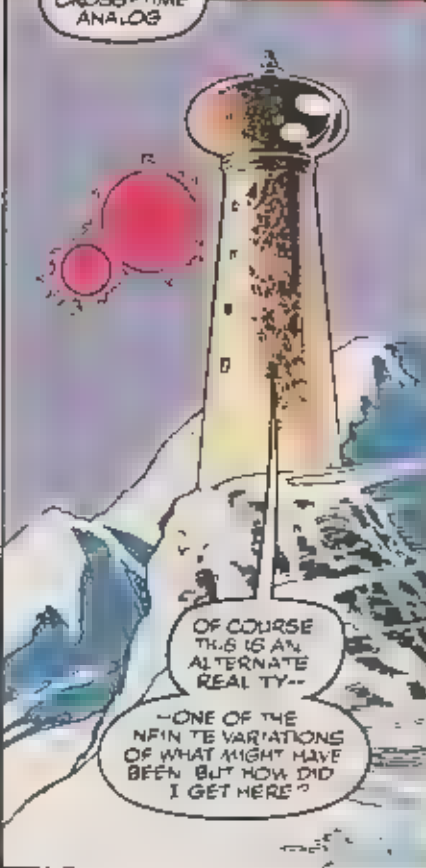


IS THIS MY
FUTURE?

HEIN!

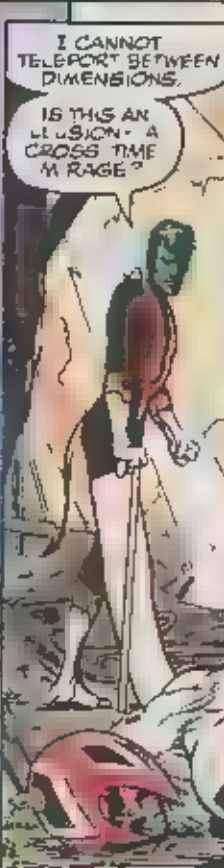
MY
OWN SKELETAL
REMAINS

OR
THOSE OF A
CROSS-TIME
ANALOG



OF COURSE
THIS IS AN
ALTERNATE
REALITY--

ONE OF THE
INFINITE VARIATIONS
OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE
BEEN BUT HOW DID
I GET HERE?



I CANNOT
TELEPORT BETWEEN
DIMENSIONS.

IS THIS AN
ILLUSION? A
CROSS-TIME
MARGE?



PERHAPS IF I
TELEPORT AGAIN
JUST A SHORT
DISTANCE--



NO I AM
STILL HERE

BUT
HOW? I MUST
THINK

WHEN I TELEPORT, I CONDENSE DISTANCE BY TRAVELING THROUGH SUB-SPACE. MY ABILITY IS NOT ACTIVE



AND INSTANTANEOUS. SO I HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO ANALYZE THE MECHANICS OF THE PROCESS.

WHAT ENHANCED SENSES ALLOW ME TO RECOGNIZE AND PROJECT MYSELF TO A SPECIFIC DESTINATION?

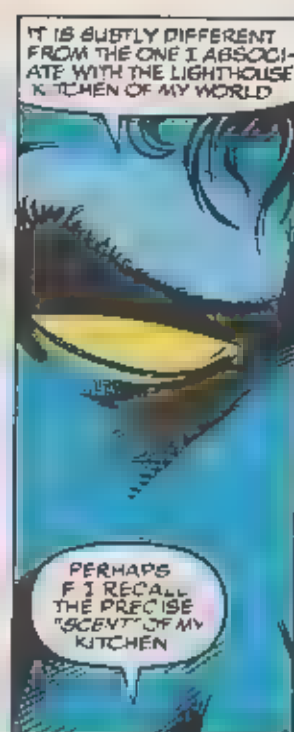
HMM THIS PLACE IS WRONG

IT IS NOTHING I CAN PUT INTO WORDS

THERE IS A QUALITY, ELUSIVE LIKE A SCENT OR FLAVOR



IT IS SUBTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE I ASSOCIATE WITH THE LIGHTHOUSE KITCHEN OF MY WORLD



PERHAPS IF I RECALL THE PRECISE "SCENT" OF MY KITCHEN

CONCENTRATE

ATTUNE MY MIND TO IT

... THEN TELEPORT



IT WORKED

I AM HOME

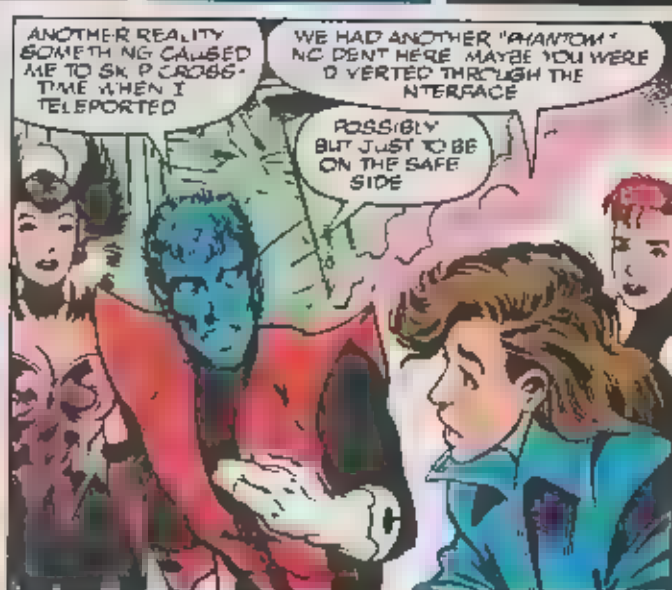
WHERE WERE YOU?



ANOTHER REALITY SOMETHING CAUSED ME TO SKIP CROSS-TIME WHEN I TELEPORTED

WE HAD ANOTHER "PHANTOM" NO DENT HERE MAYBE YOU WERE DIVERTED THROUGH THE INTERFACE

POSSIBLY BUT JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE



I THINK WE WOULD BE BEST TO FACE NECROM OUTSIDE

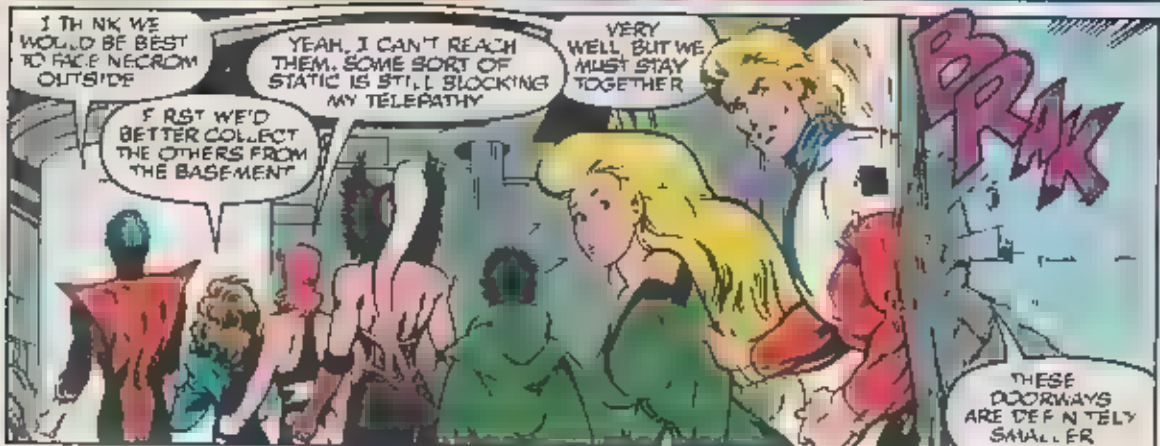
YEAH, I CAN'T REACH THEM. SOME SORT OF STATIC IS STILL BLOCKING MY TELEPATHY

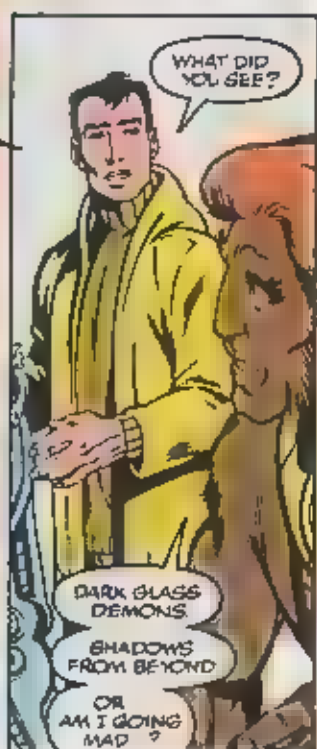
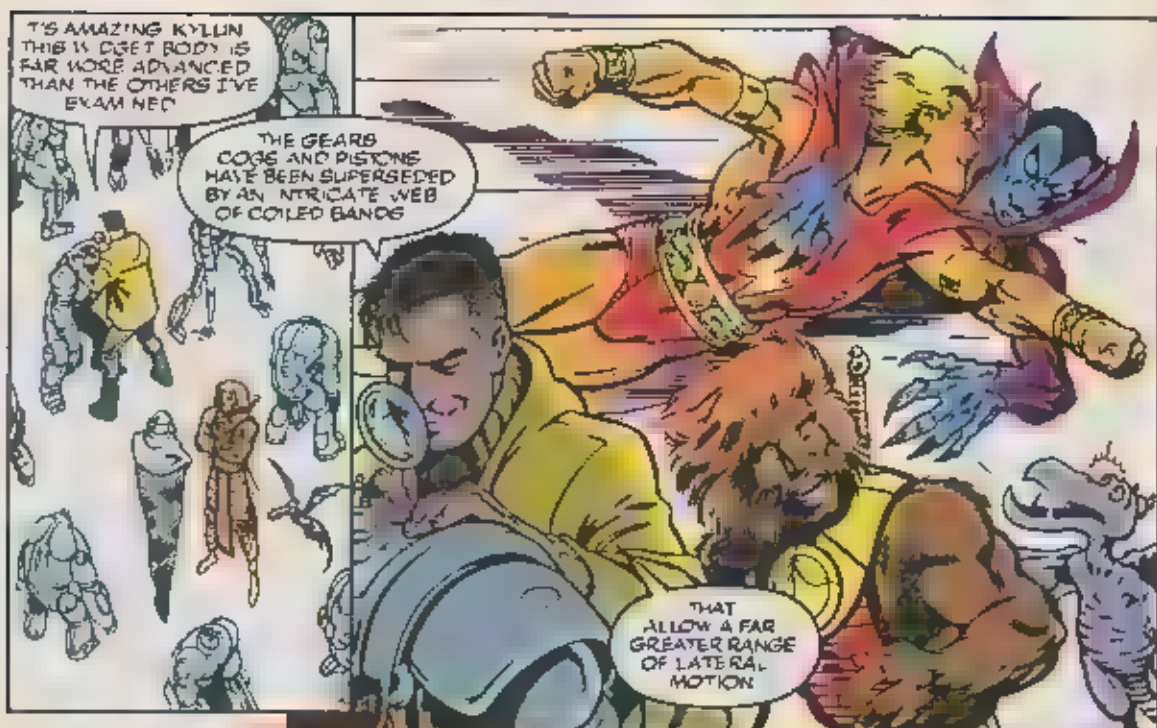
VERY WELL, BUT WE MUST STAY TOGETHER

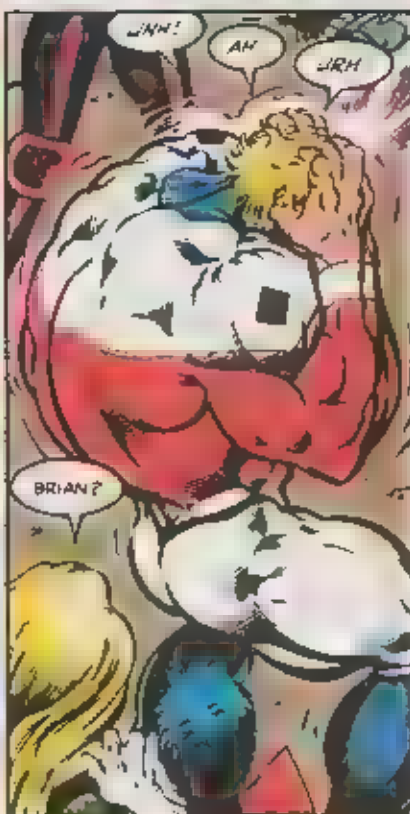
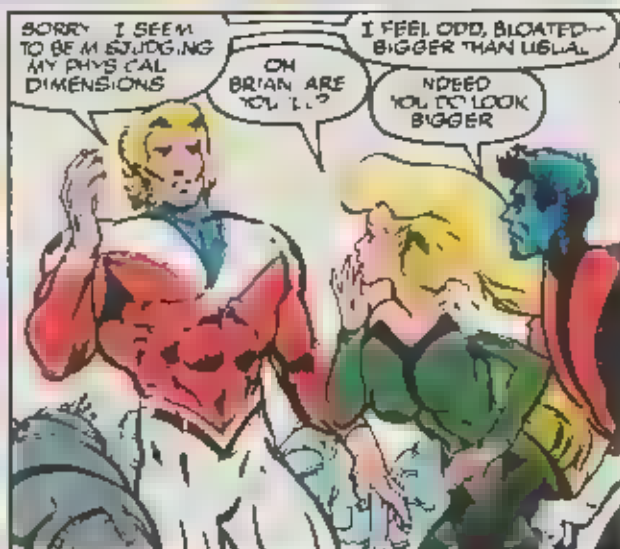
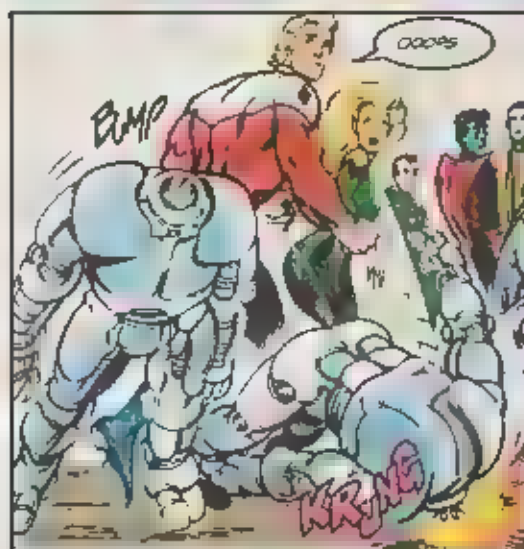
FIRST WE'D BETTER COLLECT THE OTHERS FROM THE BASEMENT

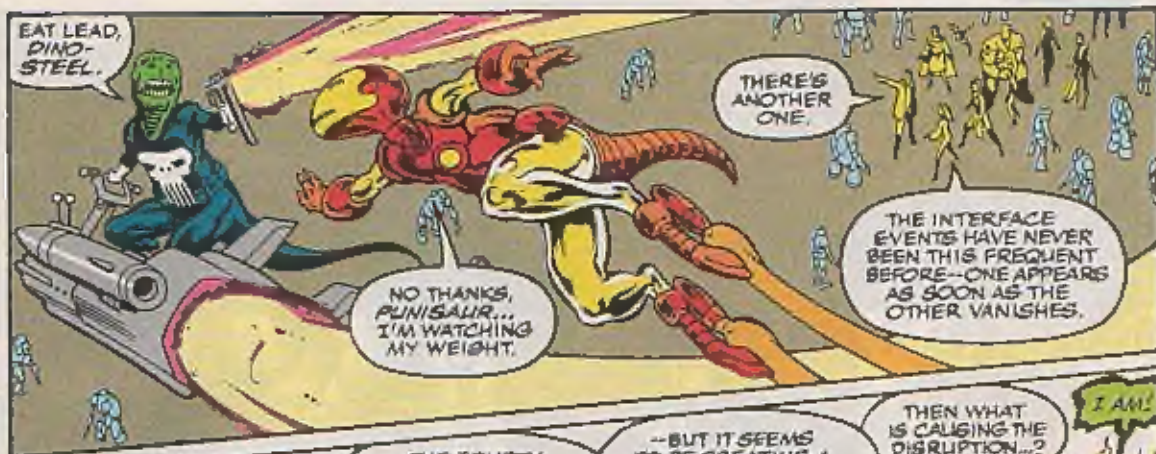
BRAK

THESE DOORWAYS ARE DEFINITELY SMALLER









EAT LEAD,
DINO-
STEEL.

THERE'S
ANOTHER
ONE.

THE INTERFACE
EVENTS HAVE NEVER
BEEN THIS FREQUENT
BEFORE--ONE APPEARS
AS SOON AS THE
OTHER VANISHES.

NO THANKS,
PUNISAUUR...
I'M WATCHING
MY WEIGHT.



THE FOURTH
DIMENSIONAL PULSE
HAS BECOME MORE
FOCUSED TOO--I CAN'T
TELL IF WIDGET IS
GENERATING IT--

--BUT IT SEEMS
TO BE CREATING A
STABLE ZONE AROUND
OUR GROUP BY COUN-
TERACTING THE TEM-
PORAL DISTORTION.

THEN WHAT
IS CAUSING THE
DISRUPTION...?

I AM!



NECROM!

THESE
FLEETING SPECTRES
ARE BUT THE FIRST
FAINT RIPPLES OF THE
CONVERGENCE--

--THE INFINITY OF
ALTERNATE EARTHS
ARE BEING
COMPRESSED INTO
A SINGULARITY.

ONLY THE POWER
OF THE PHOENIX CAN
FORESTALL YOUR
HELLISH OBLIVION.

DO NOT LET
HIM GOAD YOU,
RACHEL. HE
WANTS THE
PHOENIX
FORCE.

YES, I WANT
THE PHOENIX, GIRL--
AND I SHALL
HAVE IT.

RELEASE IT
TO ME NOW AND
I WILL SPARE
YOUR WORLD.

DENY ME, AND
YOU WILL SUFFER
ETERNAL AGONY.

OTHERWORLD--ROMA'S
STARLIGHT CITADEL...

M'LADY ROMA...
INTERDIMENSIONAL
TRANSIT AND
COMMUNICATION
IS BREAKING
DOWN.

NUMEROUS
TIME-QUAKES
AND REALITY-
WARPS HAVE BEEN
REPORTED.

I AM AWARE
OF THE SITUATION,
SATURNYNE...

...BUT
ITS CAUSES
ARE BEYOND MY
COMPREHENSION.

FORCES MORE
POWERFUL THAN
I AM AT WORK
HERE.

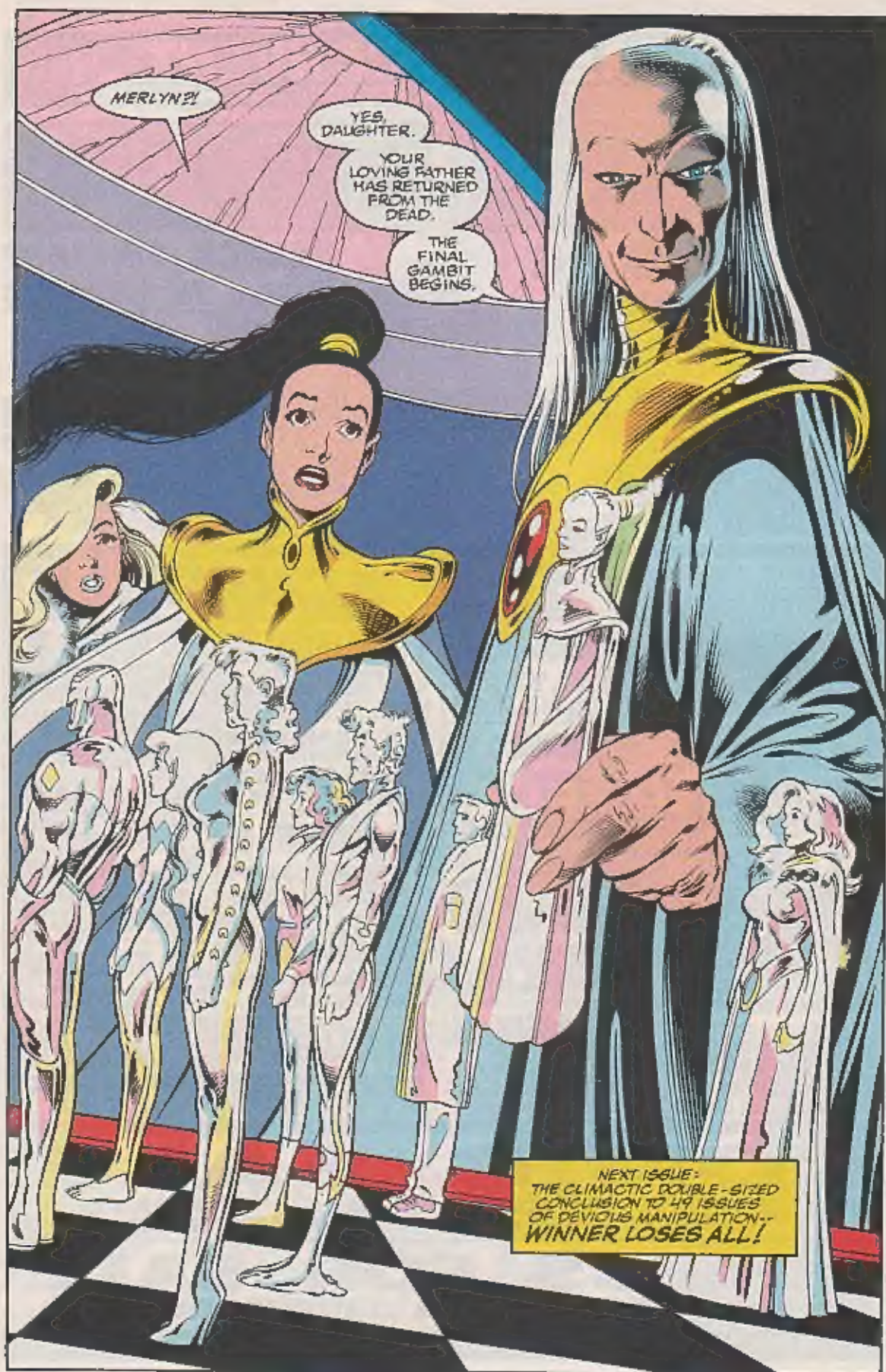
AN ENERGY VORTEX
ORIGINATING FROM THE
VICINITY OF THE EARTH
616 EXCALIBUR HAS
STARTED TO COLLAPSE
THE MULTIVERSE IN
UPON ITSELF.

ITS PURPOSE IS
AS MYSTERIOUS AS
ITS CREATOR.

DID
MERLYN TELL YOU
NOTHING OF THIS
POWER PLAY?

NO...HE DID
NOT CONFIDE
IN ME.

I TOLD
YOU ALL I
WISHED YOU
TO KNOW.



SWORD STOKES

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAUGH
EDITOR
MARK POWERS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Sword Stokes,

Re: EXCALIBUR#44, "Witness For The Prosecution"

I would like to open by saying that I am thrilled beyond words at the return of Alan Davis. Nobody draws the team as well as he does. He also recaptures the team's original sense of humor, instead of reducing them to cracking silly jokes.

The issue itself was great. The plot twists are surprising, to say the least. The revolution on Earth 148 is awfully interesting, especially its main players Kylon and Satreen. There seems to be some ominous overtones in this revolution for our merry mutant band.

So until Kurt becomes a college mascot, Make Mine Marvel!

Chris Polimenakos
126 Aster Lane
Lake Jackson, TX 77556

The response to issue #44 was overwhelmingly positive, Chris. Join the other letter writers on this page in raving about Alan Davis and "Witness For The Prosecution."

Dear Mighty Marvel,

I have never written to this book before, but after reading issue #44, I just had to write. The last few issues featuring the return of Alan Davis have been "mentally hip hop and smoothed out on a positive trip!" I just can't get over Davis's pencils — they are perfect for this book and team.

Anyway, on to the issue. I just love all of the different Captain Britains from other earths. The samurai and the futuristic robot are my favorites. But I just wanted to ask a few questions about other things:

1. What is Nightcrawler's connection to Mystique of Freedom Force? Are they related? I heard there was going to be a bookshelf about it, but I guess not.

2. Please have the X-Men (the real ones) meet Excalibur — it's a bit overdue.

3. Is there any chance that the team will be separating and reforming with some new members? I like the current team, but they could use 1 or 2 new people.

By the way, my girlfriend thinks that Lockheed's "outs." I'm sure he gets all the babes!

On a scale of five "X"s, this book gets four: "XXXX" Thanks for making my \$1.75 worth it!

Johnathon Briggs
2231 S. Sycamore Ave. Apt. B
Los Angeles, CA 90016

Answers, we have answers! Nightcrawler's connection to Mystique has not yet been revealed. Guess you'll just have to keep reading!

The two teams have been reunited, Johnathon, if only by telephone and video screen. But, in issue #52, look for two of the founding members of the original X-Men to make a visit to the shores of England. And the results of this meeting will change Excalibur forever — and cost them a teammate!

And finally, a resounding yell if you haven't guessed by now, Excalibur welcomes both Carice and Kylon as new members! It's the beginning of a great relationship!

Alan,

I just finished EXCALIBUR#44. Does the list of charges against Brian mean that we can look forward to our dear Cap losing the uniform of Captain Marshall 1193 that he adopted "without corps approval" and regaining his rightful uniform (from CAPTAIN BRITAIN MONTHLY and early issues of EXCALIBUR)?

Eagerly awaiting the day when Brian once again looks like a Captain Britain.

Michael D. Holten-Murphy
2055 Lincoln St.
Eugene, OR 97405

Brian does look like a Captain Britain, Michael — well, at least we think so. And, no, he won't be changing his dude anytime soon.

Dear Sword Stokes,

Congrats on issue #44! I started collecting comics about a month ago, and EXCALIBUR is by far my favorite title! I love the art and the book quality. The character personalities are excellent, and what's a comic book without the humor that's in every EXCALIBUR?

I would like to see more guest appearances. (I loved issue #40 and #41.) I enjoy it when different Marvel titles come together.

EXCALIBUR NOW TWICE A MONTH! Great decision! I was finding it difficult to go 30 days without a new issue!

Alan, and the rest of the EXCALIBUR crew, keep up the great work!

Matt Veltan
(Address withheld upon request)

Happy to hear you enjoyed the summer bi-weeklies, Matt, but unfortunately they were only for summer. We'll have to see what develops this year...

Dear Sword Stokes,

I LOVE EXCALIBUR! Sorry, I had to get that on paper before I wrote this letter. EXCALIBUR is the only comic I collect. It is the best comic in the Marvel Multiverse. I love it. I've said that before, haven't I? I guess you get the point.

I am an eleven year old girl whose friends think it's weird that I read comics. I've tried too many times to get them to like comics. Any tips?

I completely love Shadowcat. Don't change her. She is my absolute idol. I bet you had me in mind when you created her. She thinks the way I do. She is very mature, but I can tell somehow she'd rather be at the mall or something.

I'll probably get hate mail for this, but I like Captain Britain as the leader of Excalibur. I still like Nightcrawler but can anybody picture Captain America not being the leader of the Avengers? No. Same deal.

With Alistair and Rachel — I like it. They make a great couple. Make it more serious.

I have two questions:

1. Does Alan Davis have an autographed picture I could have? That would make me the happiest person on Earth.

2. When is Excalibur going to have the reunion? Got that? Not any lakes, the REAL X-Men.

So until Kitty Pryde changes her name to Kitty Cryde, Make Mine Marvel!

Eden Miller
4710 Tameo Rd.
Glen Allen, VA 23060

We've tried to get some of our friends who don't read comics interested in them, too, Eden! Yes, it is hard. The best advice we can offer is to try to show your friends particular titles, and even particular issues, that you think would interest them. And remember — to each his or her own!

If you'd like to get in touch with Alan Davis, or any Marvel artist or writer, write to him or her in care of Marvel Comics, address atop this page. We'll forward all mail! Be sure to be specific in your letter, and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Dear Sword Stokes,

Issue #44, bottom of page 16. I was in stitches. Technet watching an educational television show for kids! The expression on their faces — it was just too funny.

Glad to see Alan Davis back. Phoenix, my favorite character, was pretty tough in that robbery scene.

Thanks for a 1/2 great year.

Morgan Henderson
302 1/2 W. Lemon St.
Lancaster, PA 17603



NEXT ISSUE: The giant-sized conclusion to our epic storyline — Phoenix vs. the anti-Phoenix!